

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH  
MONASTERY STOREHOUSE,

Plaintiff,

v.

MAURICE KING, *et al.*,

Defendants.

NO. C19-301RSL

MINUTE ORDER

The following Minute Order is made and entered on the docket at the direction of the HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

In light of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Seattle Courthouse remains closed to all but a very limited number of in-person hearings in felony criminal cases. In-person civil proceedings and trials are not permitted at this time. Pursuant to the district's most recent General Order No. 15-20, however, remote video proceedings are permitted in civil cases. The parties shall therefore confer regarding their willingness to waive jury and proceed with a remote bench trial in this matter.

If the parties agree to waive jury, they shall, *within twenty-one days of the date of this Minute Order*, file a joint status report addressing the following issues: (a) the number of court

1 days needed to try the remaining claims; (b) months in 2021 that the parties are NOT available  
2 for trial; (c) whether settlement is possible; and (d) mechanisms and/or procedures that the  
3 parties agree to use to shorten a remote bench trial, such as submitting deposition testimony or  
4 expert reports in lieu of live witnesses, stipulating to undisputed facts and the admission of  
5 undisputed exhibits, submitting openings and closings in writing, etc.  
6

7 If the parties do not agree to waive jury, they shall, *within twenty-one days of the*  
8 *reopening of the Seattle Courthouse for in-person civil jury trials*, file a joint status report  
9 addressing the following issues: (a) the number of court days needed to try the remaining claims;  
10 (b) months in 2021 and 2022 that the parties are NOT available for trial; (c) whether settlement  
11 is possible; (d) whether the parties agreed to a remote civil jury trial; and (e) mechanisms and/or  
12 procedures that the parties agree to use to shorten the trial, such as submitting deposition  
13 testimony or expert reports in lieu of live witnesses, stipulating to undisputed facts and the  
14 admission of undisputed exhibits, etc.  
15

16 The Court is facing a significant backlog of both criminal and civil cases at this time.  
17 Criminal matters have precedence, and the Court anticipates further delays before in-person civil  
18 proceedings can resume. The parties are encouraged to seriously consider waiving jury so that  
19 matters can be scheduled for trial in keeping with the General Orders of this district and the  
20 guidance of local and national health officials.  
21  
22

23 DATED this 5th day of October, 2020.  
24

25 /s/Kerry Simonds  
26 Kerry Simonds, Deputy Clerk  
27 to Robert S. Lasnik, District Judge  
28 206-370-8519